

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 21-30 are now pending in this application. New claim 30 is added. Each of the pending claims is believed to be novel and unobvious over the cited references. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-10, 21-22, 24 and 27-29 have been rejected 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,205,257 to Oguro et al. Oguro does not anticipate the claimed invention as it does not disclose, among other things, the one or more protrude regions causing continuous localized variations in capacitance around the first strap as is recited in the amended claims.

As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the one or more protruding regions cause continuous localized variations in capacitance around the first strap. This is not the case is Oguro et al. As can be seen in Figure 4 of the Oguro, the vanes 2 are arranged intermediately around the strap 31. This does not result in the claimed continuous localized variations in capacitance around the first strap. Thus, Oguro et al. does not disclose each and every element recited in the claims as is required by 35 U.S.C. 102. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should also be noted the Oguro does not appear to disclose a second strap.

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oguro in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,743,805 to Takada. Claim 23 depends from independent claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Takada does not supplement Oguro to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oguro in view of U.S. Patent Number 2,766,403 to Skowron. Claims 25 and 26 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding independent claim 1. Skowron does not supplement Oguro to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-8 have indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 30 combines independent claim 1 and allowable claim 7 and is therefore in allowable form.

Regarding the remarks on the drawings, it is respectfully submitted that Figures 7 and 8 show the feature of the first ring strap in electrical contact with alternates ones of the vanes. For example, as can be seen in Figure 7, the portions of vane 59 which do not include a tab 57 rest on and are in electrical contact with alternate ones of the vanes 51-55.

Additionally, regarding the "closed ring" recited in claim 24, submitted herewith on a separate sheet is a corrected version of Figure 6A indicating the second strap comprising a closed ring.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection the drawings be withdrawn.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arranged for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Application No. 10/516,349
Amendment dated July 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2007

Docket No.: 41557-211276

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: July 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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